nology to grow crops in areas where hitherto it had not been possible to do so due to water logging. The technology developed could be extended to cover more areas in Maharashtra and elsewhere in Central India where similar conditions occur.

Trawlers required for Exploitation of Marine Resources

3014. SHRI RAM NAIK: Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to bring forth legislation for maintaining and regulating the operations of Indian deep sea fishing vessels;

(b) if so, the present trawler fleet at Visakhapatnam;

(c) the number of trawlers required for proper exploitation of marine resources;

(d) whether the Government have enquired into the reasons for permitting excessive number of trawlers; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to ensure that excessive number of trawelers are not permitted in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Out of 179 deep sea trawlers owned by Indian companies, a number of them are operated from Visakhapatnam.

(c) In a report submitted in September, 1990 a Working Group on Revalidation of the Potential Marine Fisheries Resources of Exclusive Economic Zone of India had suggested phased introduction of about 2630 deep sea fishing vessels classified in various categories for exploitation of pelagic, demersal and oceanic resources.

(d) Taking into consideration the number of trawlers in operation and the availability of resources, the number of deep sea fishing vessels in operation in Indian Waters are not considered excessive at present.

(e) Does not arise.

Financial Assistance for Telugu Ganga Project

3015. SHRI R. SURENDER REDDY:
SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI:

Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government of Andhra Pradesh has invited participation of Non–Resident Indians for the Telugu Ganga Project;

(b) if so, the total amount that the NRIs propose to invest on this project;

(c) the stage at which this project stands, at present;

(d) to what extent completion of the project will help in irrigating the land and also providing drinking water to Tamil Nadu; and

(e) whether the Union Government have also agreed to the proposal to assist the implementation of this project?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) and (b). The Government of Andhra Pradesh have desired to invite participation of the NRIs by raising resources for the Telugu Ganga Project. The issue of floating India development bonds – Telugu Ganga Series has been taken up by the

Government of Andhra Pradesh with the Union Ministry of Finance.

(c) 33.2% of the work on Telugu Ganga Project is completed.

(d) On completion of the project, an irrigation potential to the extent of 5.75 lakh acres in the drought prone areas of Kurnool, Cuddapah Nellore and Chittoor districts will be created. Further 15 TMC of water will be made available to Tamil Nadu to cater to the drinking water requirements of Madras City.

(e) Though the Government of Andhra Pradesh have desired to invite participation of NRIs by raising resources for Telugu Ganga Project, Government of India is not in favour of mobilizing NRI resources exclusively for any State Government Project.

Telephone Connections in Country

3016. SHRI DATTATRAYA BANDARU:
SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of telephone connections provided during the last three years in the country State–wise;

(b) whether the demand for the new telephone connections has increased; and

(c) if so, the details of time–bound programme before the Government to provide new telephone connections?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNCIATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Number of telephone connections provided during the last three years are given in the Statement.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Department of Telecommunications has formulated draft 8th Five Year Plan (1992–97) for Telecom Development to provide 75 lakhs new telephone connections in five years thereby substantially stepping up the rate of provision of telephones.